# WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Monthly Report / **October 2026**

**Compassion, Dedication, Integrity, Accountability, Trust**



Greetings!

October was Fire Prevention Month, providing an opportunity for the Watertown Fire Department to connect with residents of all ages and reinforce the importance of fire safety. This year's national Fire Prevention Week theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower," focused on safe charging practices and reducing fires involving lithium-ion batteries. Throughout the month, our crews participated in school visits, station tours, and community events, reaching more than 1,700 people through fire prevention education and community interactions.

Community partnerships were another highlight of October. The Watertown Fire Department joined the Watertown Police Department for friendly competition supporting Habitat for Humanity, with members of both departments putting their skills to work siding garages. The event raised funds to support affordable housing while bringing our public safety teams together to give back to the community.




Professional development also remained a priority. Deputy Chief and Fire Marshal Don Dishno received sponsorship to attend a fire inspector conference, supporting his continued education in fire prevention and code enforcement. Our chief officers attended the Wisconsin Fire Chiefs Education Association Fall Conference, covering personnel management, leadership, public communication, emerging technology, and legal issues affecting the fire service.

The department also continued working to improve services while being responsible with city resources. Following a review of our EMS billing operations, the finance committee and common council approved a transition to a new billing provider. The agreement reduces billing commission fees, resulting in an estimated more than $20,000 in annual savings based on current collections. We also anticipate improved customer service and a more responsive billing experience for patients and their families.

Chief Tanya Reynen



# Operational Statistics

## Incident Count Statistics

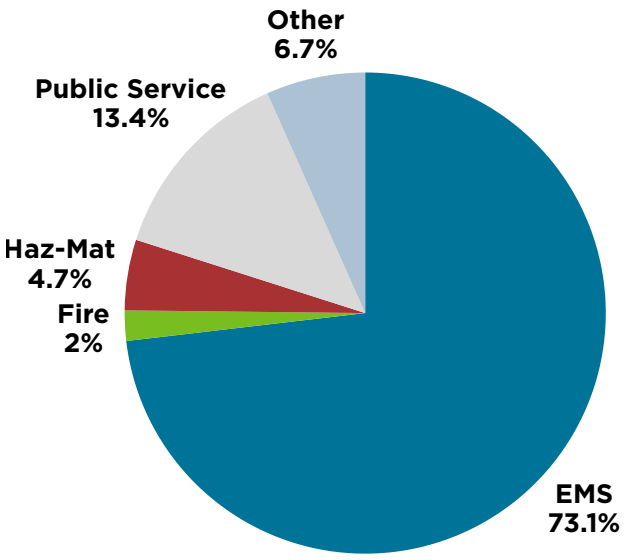
### October 2026 Calls: 284

| EMS | Fire | Haz-Mat | Public Service | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 225 | 6 | 8 | 30 | 15 |

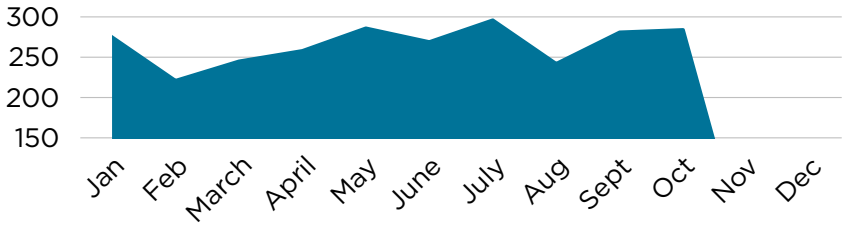
### October Incidents by Year

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 247 | 261 | 287 | 284 |

### Incident Percentages Year to Date

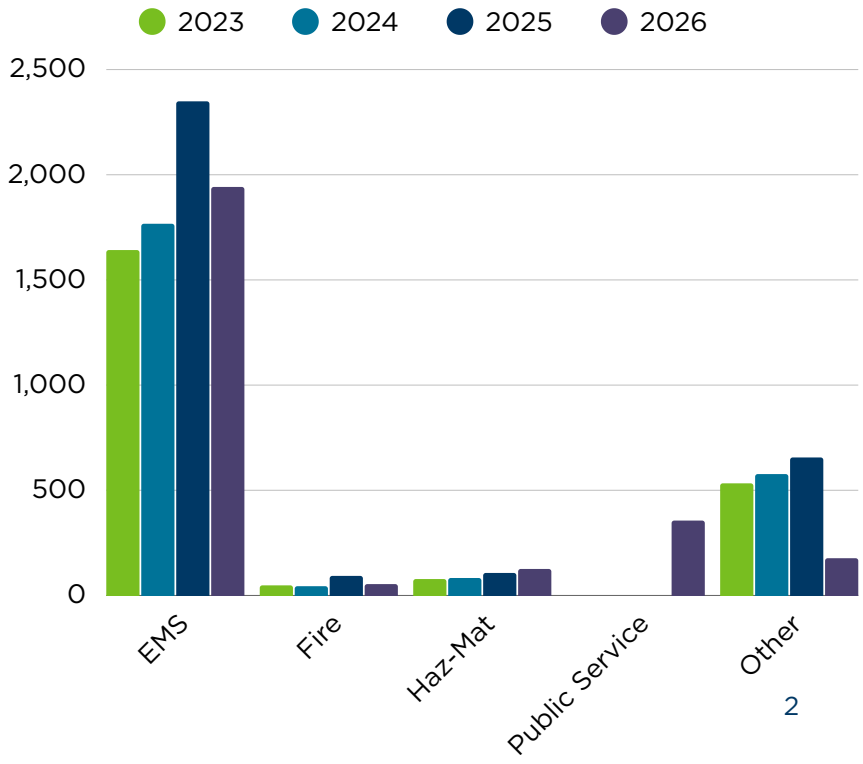



### Incident count by Month




**2026 Year-to-Date Incident Count: 2655**

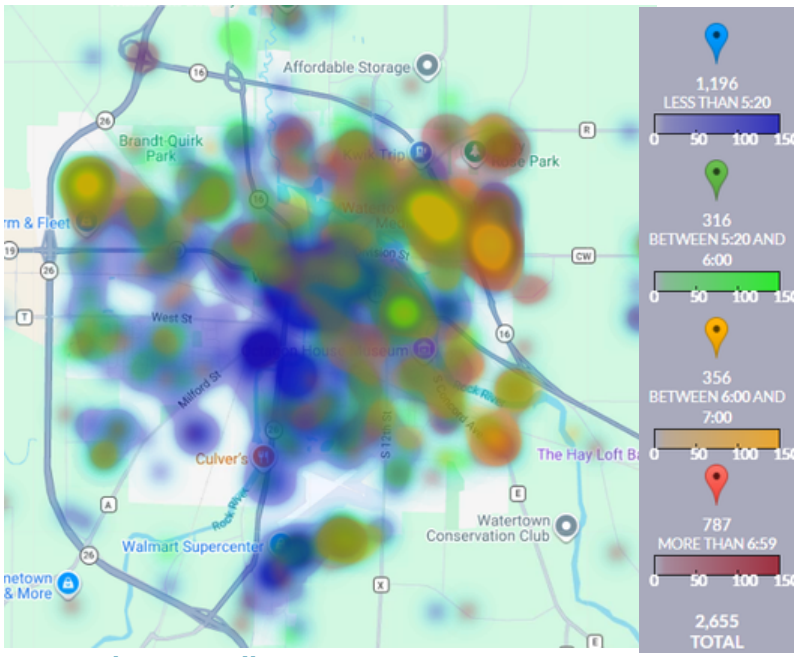
### Year-to-Date Incidents by year and type



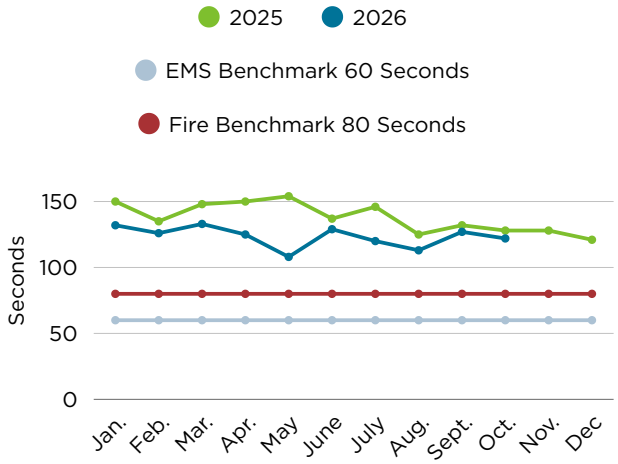

**Public Service**
The category Public service calls include lift assists, carbon monoxide alarms, and smoke alarm malfunctions

**Other**
Includes standby responses, canceled calls, reports of smoke in the area, incidents where no patient is found, and controlled burns

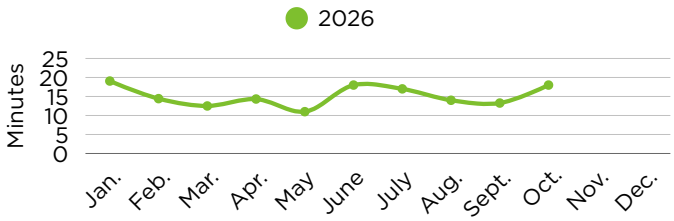
## Year-to-Date Response Time Heat Map



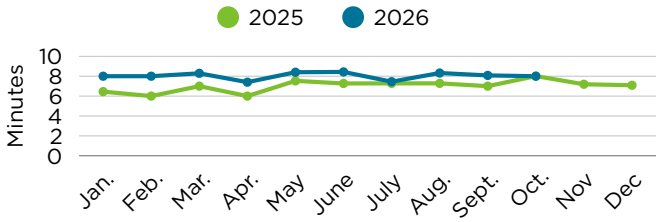

### 90th Percentile ALL ZONE TURNOUT TIME (Alarm>EnRoute)




### 90th Percentile TOWNSHIPS RESPONSE TIME (Alarm>First Unit Arrival)




### 90th Percentile CITY ZONE RESPONSE TIME (Alarm>First Unit Arrival)




## Simultaneous Calls by Month- Year to Year

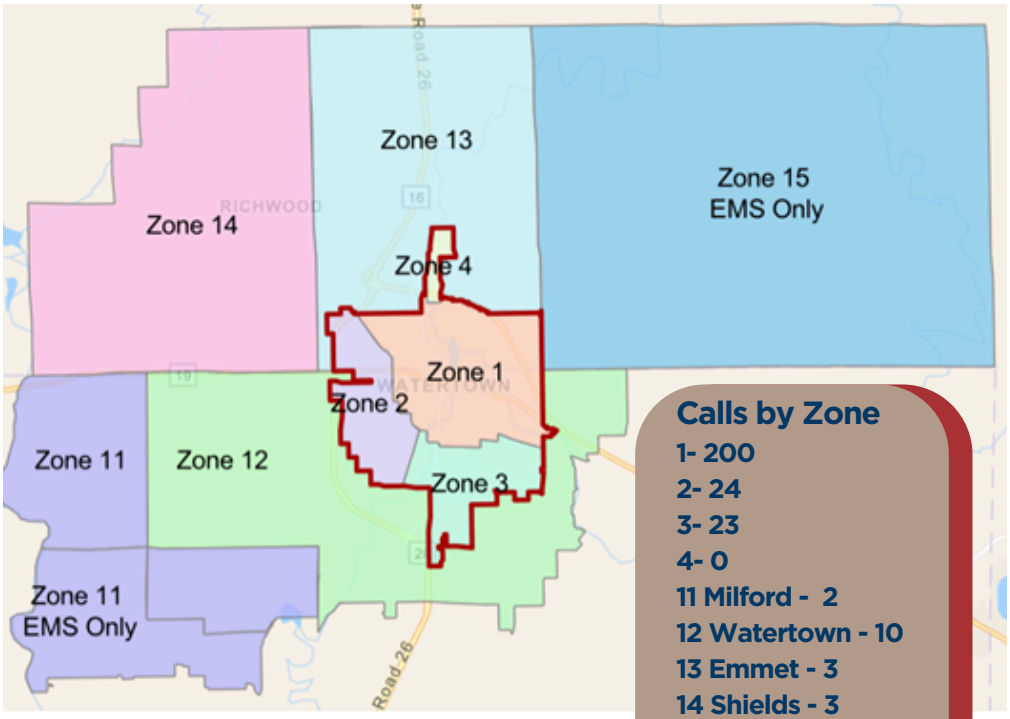
Simultaneous calls occur when the department receives another emergency call while personnel are already responding to or managing an incident.

| | 2024 | | 2025 | | 2026 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **January** | 52 | **19%** | 79 | **28%** | 51 | **25%** |
| **February** | 39 | **18%** | 63 | **28%** | 26 | **16%** |
| **March** | 52 | **22%** | 93 | **32%** | 44 | **23%** |
| **April** | 31 | **14%** | 74 | **28%** | 49 | **19%** |
| **May** | 47 | **20%** | 103 | **34%** | 65 | **23%** |
| **June** | 68 | **27%** | 78 | **27%** | 68 | **25%** |

| | 2024 | | 2025 | | 2026 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **July** | 57 | **24%** | 87 | **30%** | 69 | **23%** |
| **August** | 50 | **22%** | 60 | **24%** | 47 | **20%** |
| **September** | 66 | **25%** | 89 | **33%** | 96 | **34%** |
| **October** | 57 | **22%** | 70 | **25%** | 105 | **36%** |
| **November** | 64 | **28%** | 57 | **24%** | | |
| **December** | 58 | **28%** | 80 | **29%** | | |

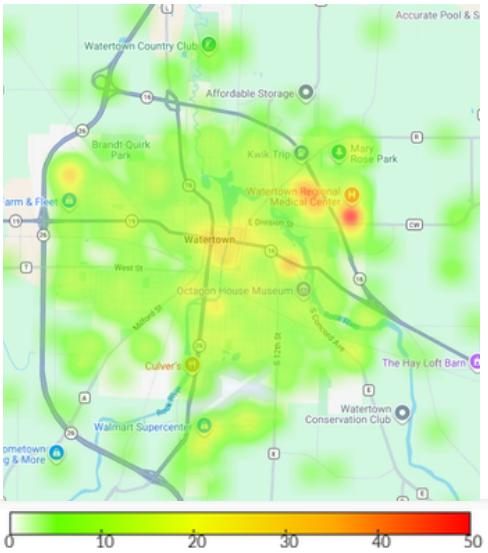
**Simultaneous Call Average**
**2023 - 21.9%**
**2024 - 22.4%**
**2025 - 28.5%**

## Calls per Zone This Month

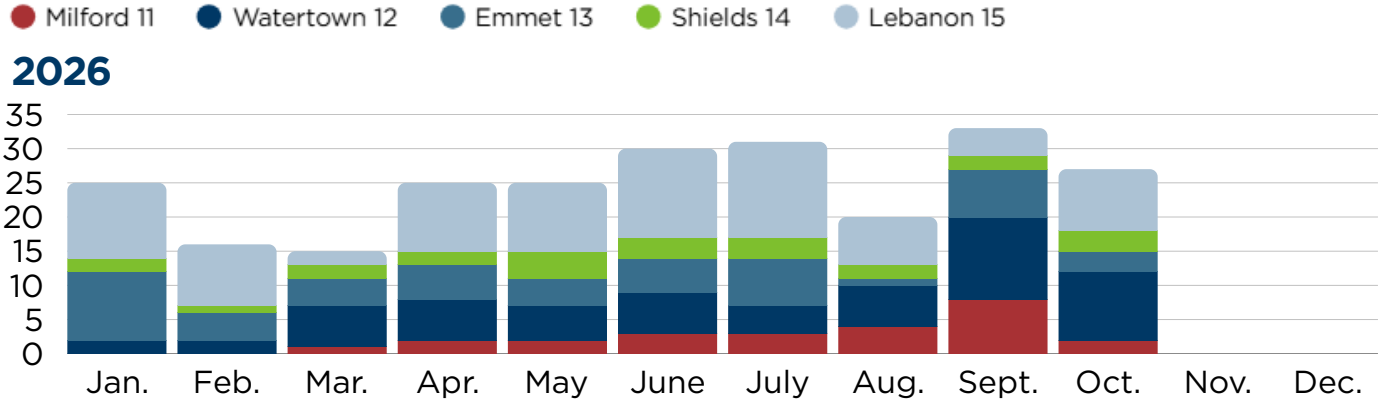


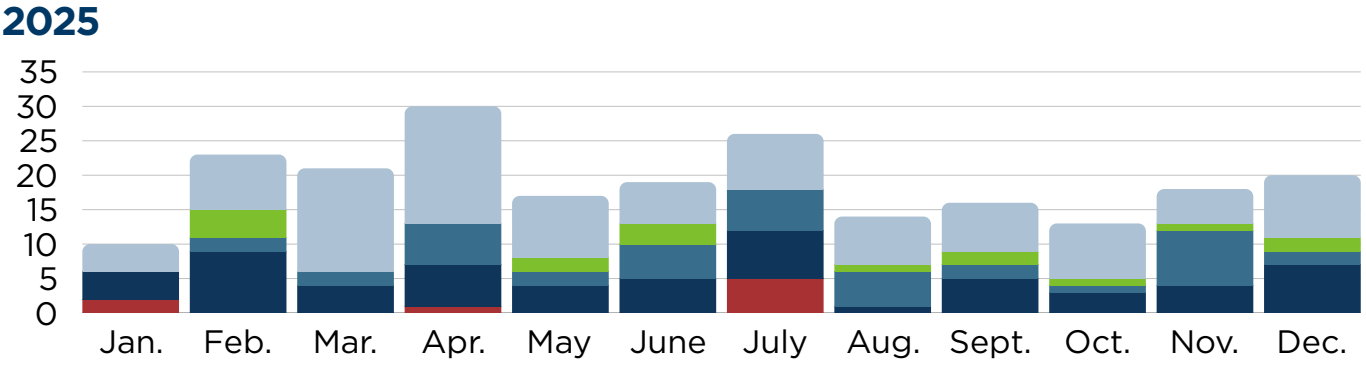

**Calls by Zone**
- 1- 200
- 2- 24
- 3- 23
- 4- 0
- 11 Milford - 2
- 12 Watertown - 10
- 13 Emmet - 3
- 14 Shields - 3
- 15 Lebanon- 9
- Mutual Aid- 10

**Year-to-Date Call Volume Heat Map**




## Calls by Township



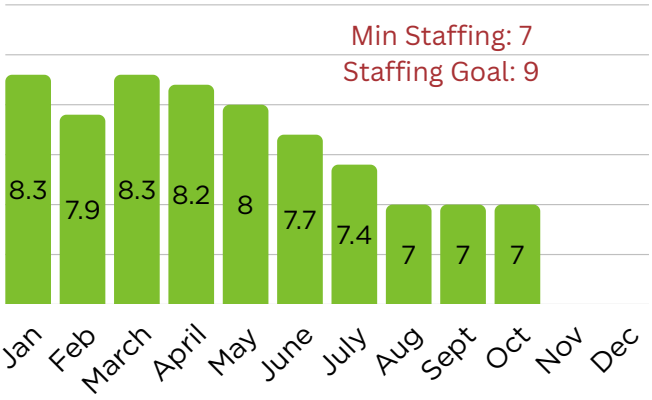



## *Department Staffing Overview*

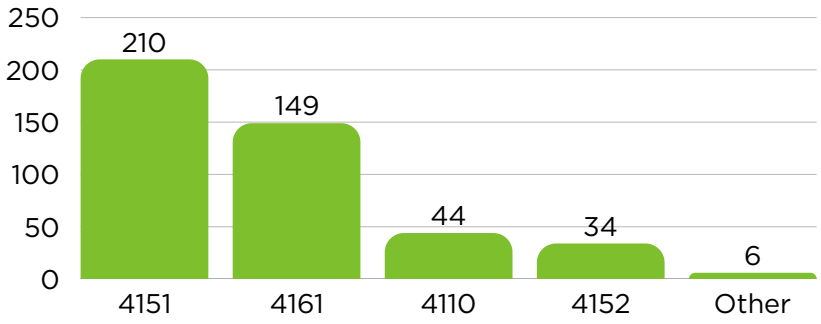
The department has nine funded positions per shift, with a minimum staffing level of seven daily.

The primary staffed apparatus are the 4110 Command Vehicle, the 4161 Engine, and the 4151 Ambulance. All other apparatus are staffed by taking personnel from the engine or using off-duty personnel called back.

### Average Daily Staffing Level

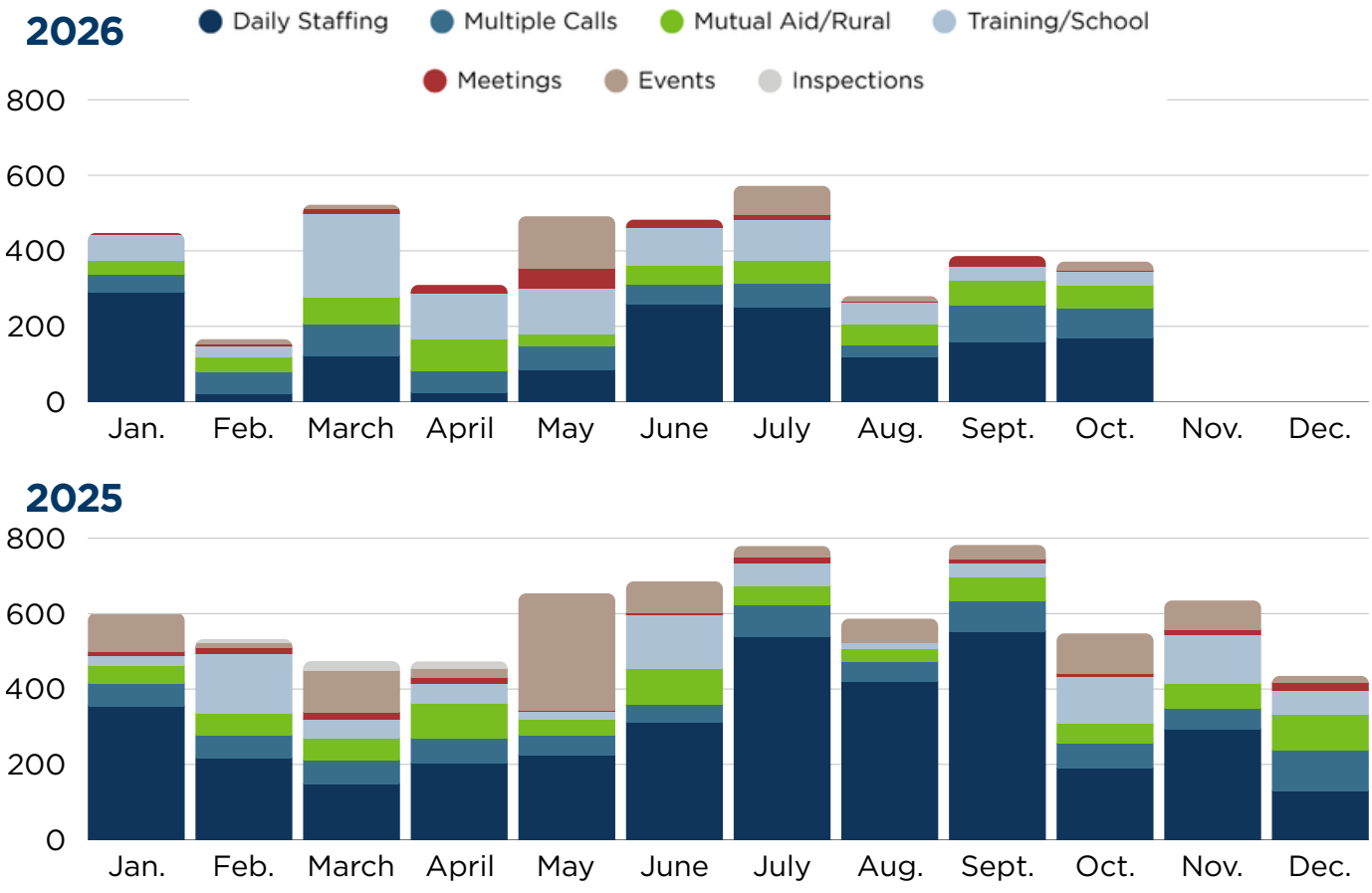



### October Incident Count by Apparatus




4152 & Other are staffed by pulling staff from Engin 4161 or calling back off-duty personnel when staffing is at 7 to 8.

## Total Monthly Overtime Hours



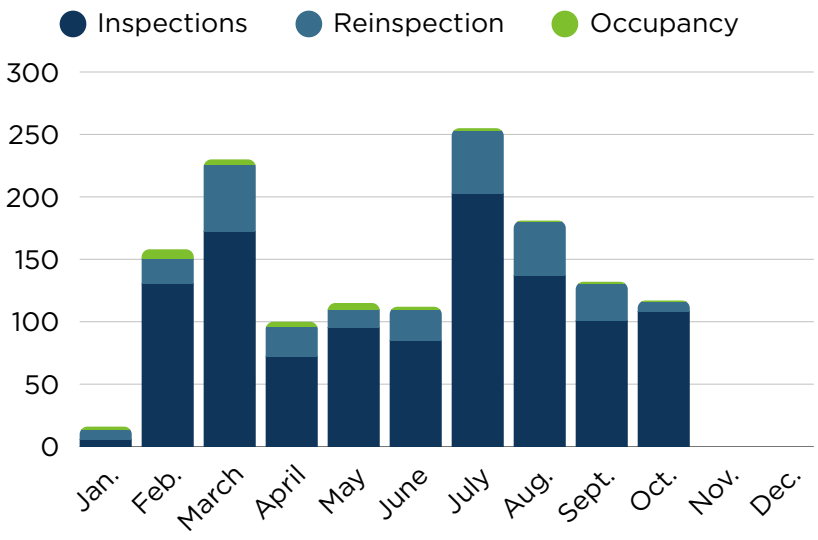
## Fire Prevention Updates

This month, Fire Marshal Don Disno received a scholarship to attend the Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors' Association's annual training conference. The conference provided valuable opportunities to connect with professionals from the public and private sectors, explore emerging technologies, review new and changing codes, and refresh knowledge of less frequently used codes and concepts.

Don attended classes covering lithium-ion batteries, solar array installations, smoke and fire dampers, fire sprinkler design for high-piled storage, and private fire protection systems. He also reviewed case studies highlighting how effective fire prevention measures can help reduce fire losses.

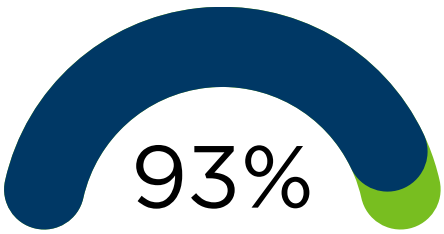
Another key focus was using artificial intelligence (AI) to support public fire safety education. Sessions explored ways to gather and organize information for research and presentations, along with creating games, videos, and interactive learning activities. These tools offer new ways to make fire safety education engaging and accessible for everyone, from preschoolers to older adults.

## Inspections Completed




## Inspection Progress

**Total Known Inspectable Properties: 1,198**




**Fire Marshal Calls for Service**

**3 Incident Responses**

**Plans Reviewed Year to Date**

**26**

### Fire & Safety Tip

As temperatures drop and the holiday season approaches, remember to keep decorations and other combustible materials at least three feet from heating equipment. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to help keep your family safe throughout the winter months.

# Incidents, Training & Public Relations

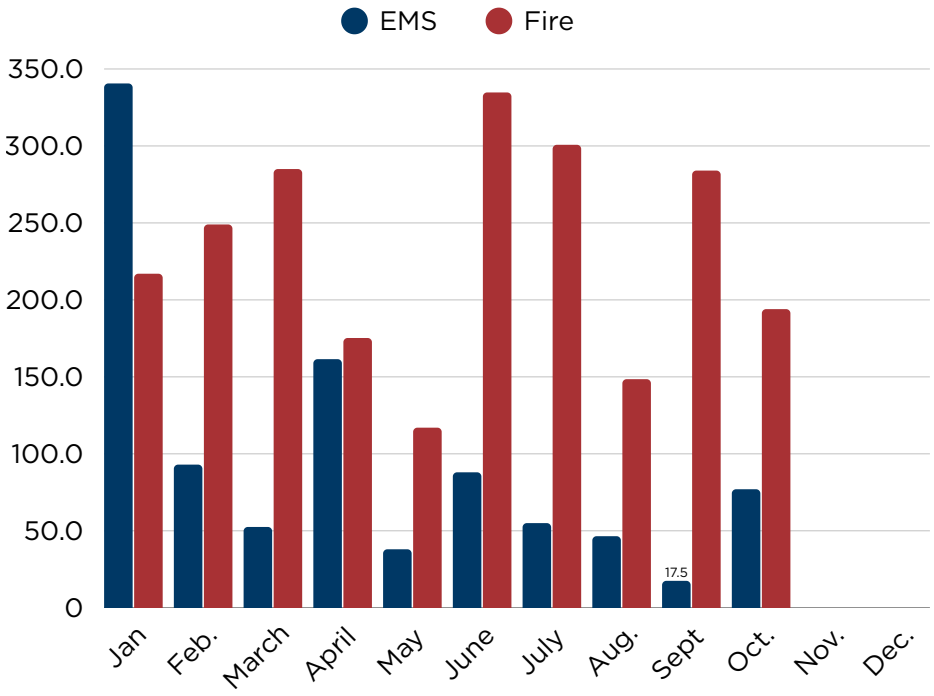
## Training Highlights

Ladder Rescue
EMS Advanced Skills
EMS Special Populations
Area Familiarization
Rural Water Operations
Inspector Conference
Chiefs Education Conference
Wisconsin Labor Management Conference

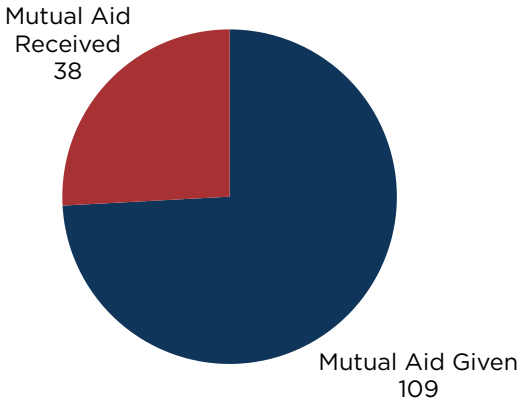
## Public Relations Highlights

Boo Bash—Benzine Family Town Square
Fire Prevention Tours
Fire Prevention School Visits
Habitat for Humanity Build Off

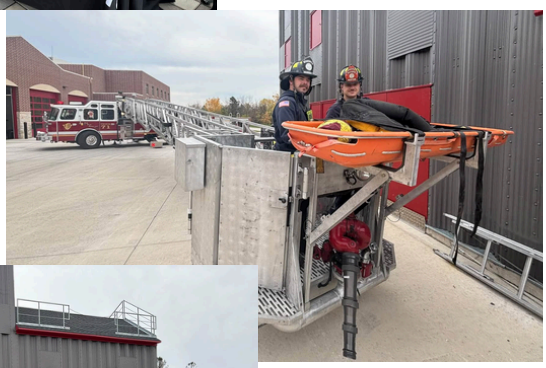
## Training Hours




## Mutual Aid Given/Received Year to Date








## Mutual Aid Received- Reason

